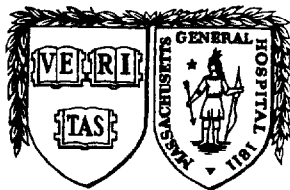


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February 28, 1979

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Dr. Robert Michaels, Chairman  
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New York Hospital  
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New York, NY

Dear Bob:

In response to your call yesterday, I would reiterate that there are only a limited number of areas that are highly promising in clinically-oriented biological research in psychiatry. These include clinical psychopharmacology and drug metabolism, neuroendocrinology, and sleep studies. I am less enthusiastic about the "direct assault" strategy in which biological characteristics or pathophysiologic changes are sought in patients with severe mental illnesses, as this approach has proven expensive, difficult logistically, and underproductive.

In areas likely to be appropriate for your institutions, I can suggest several names--most of them well known to you already. Some of these persons may well be open to an invitation to consider a new position: Seymour Reichlin (Chief of the Endocrinology Division at Tufts Medical Center, Boston); of the many possible candidates at the NIMH intramural program, I would try Irwin Kopin first, but among the younger men, would also think about Richard Wyatt and Daniel Van Kammen; Erminio Costa might also be a very interesting candidate, especially if he would help to set up clinically-related studies of biochemistry and drug metabolism with a clinical colleague, such as John Davis or Alexander Glassman; Solomon Snyder might provide some of the characteristics you are seeking, again, if he could come with a clinical colleague; in Snyder's department, you might also look at Joseph Coyle, a very competent younger man with clinical and preclinical training; an unusual suggestion would be to talk with Manfred Karobath (a former colleague of mine who now directs the research laboratories for the Psychiatric Clinic of the University of Vienna Medical Center); for an expert on setting up and running clinical biomedical research units, talk with Jack Mendelson of our department; in sleep studies, consider Howard Roffwarg (University of Texas, Southwestern at Dallas). In case the thought had occurred to you, I would not be interested in a move at the present time (but one never knows about the future...).

Again, I am sorry that my cold last week killed my throat and that I had to miss the chance to visit your department and your colleagues at the Rockefeller, and hope that the thoughts above will be of some help to you in planning for the proposed new program of collaborative research.

Best wishes,

*Ross*

Ross J. Baldessarini, M.D.  
Acting Director